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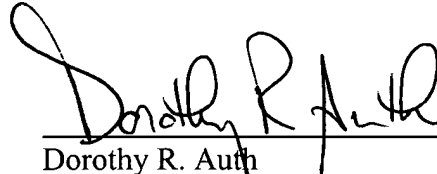
Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 16, 2003

By:



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APPENDIX

1. (amended) . A cylindrical expandable stent comprising:

a first loop containing section arranged in a circumferential direction and defining
loops therein occurring at a first frequency;

a second loop containing section arranged in the circumferential direction and
defining loops therein occurring at the first frequency;

a third loop containing section disposed in a generally circumferential space between the first
loop containing section and the second loop containing section and coupling the first loop
containing section to the second loop containing section for defining cells therebetween, the third
loop containing section defining loops therein occurring at a second frequency that is greater
than the first frequency.